

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SAM-01 OPR-02 AID-05 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /055 W

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O 231732Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6026

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8506

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI

SUBJ: GARBA REQUEST FOR MEETING JULY WITH SECRETARY

REF : STATE 181979

1. SUMMARY. IN BRIEF EXCHANGE JULY 23 GARBA INDICATED TO CHARGE HE WANTS TO SEE THE SECRETARY URGENTLY AND WISHES DISCUSS PRINCIPALLY (A) BILATERAL U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS AND (B) AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE KENYAN/UGANDAN SITUATION. RECOMMEND SECRETARY RECEIVE HIM, AND REQUEST TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING ASAP. END SUMMARY.

2. WORKING UNDER SOMETHING LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS, CHARGE APPROACHED COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA JULY 23, AFTER LATTER HAD HELD JOINT MEETING WITH CHIEFS OF MISSION OF INDUSTRIALLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES REGARDING INDIGENIZATION (SEPTEL), AND ASKED GARBA IF HE COULD INDICATE SUBJECTS HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH SECRETARY JULY 30. GARBA AT FIRST RESPONDED "I AM NOT GOING TO TELL YOU ANYTHING*" LATER, AFTER A REMARKABLE SHOUTING EXCHANGE WITH INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER ROY (SEPTEL), GARBA SEEMED SOMEWHAT MORE RELAXED AND DREW CHARGE ASIDE TO SAY THAT HE HAD NOT YET HEARD FROM AMBASSADOR SANU AND TO ASK WHETHER HE HAD THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SECRETARY. CHARGE SAID WE HAD SIMPLY HEARD APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN REQUESTED AND DEPARTMENT HAD SAID IT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INDICATION OF SUBJECTS

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COMMISSIONER MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS. GARBA SAID HE WANTED

PRINCIPALLY TO TALK ABOUT (A) BILATERAL MATTERS AND (B) AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. THINKING GARBA MIGHT HAVE MISSPOKEN AND INTENDED TO SAY "MULTILATERAL MATTERS," CHARGE ASKED IF HE MEANT BILATERAL U.S.-NIGERIAN RELATIONS. GARBA SAID HE DID BUT WOULD NOT ELABORATE. REGARDING AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, CHARGE SUGGESTED THIS WOULD INCLUDE ANGOLA AND ZIMBABWE, BUT GARBA INDICATED MORE IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN EAST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. CHARGE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GARBA'S MISSION TO KENYA AND UGANDA HAD FORESTALLED VIOLENCE THERE. GARBA OBSERVED HIS TRIP HAD BEEN ESSENTIAL AND SAID HE WANTED TO DISCUSS THE GENERAL SITUATION WITH THE SECRETARY

AND SEE WHAT HIS VIEWS WERE. GARBA ADDED THAT HE PLACED GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE MEETING AND WOULD GO ANYWHERE NECESSARY TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY. GARBA WENT ON SOMEWHAT LAMELY TO EXPLAIN THAT IT HAD BEEN SOME TIME SINCE HE HAD TALKED WITH THE SECRETARY, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH HIM. CHARGE ASKED IF HE HAD OTHER POINTS TO RAISE, BUT HE REPLIED IT WAS PRINCIPALLY THE TWO MATTERS: BILATERAL ISSUES AND AFRICAN ISSUES, ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY HIMSELF MIGHT HAVE SOME OTHER MATTERS TO RAISE. GARBA WOULD NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC, AND AS OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION WERE CLOSING IN ON US, THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER.

3. COMMENT: GARBA WAS OBVIOUSLY WORKED UP OVER HAVING TO COME AND DISCUSS INDIGENIZATION WITH MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND HIS FIRST BRUSQUE RESPONSE TO CHARGE APPEARED TO REFLECT THAT RATHER THAN DISPLEASURE WITH U.S. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE CLEARLY MATTERS OF SERIOUS AND PRESUMABLY URGENT CONCERN HE WISHES DISCUSS WITH THE SECRETARY. THOSE RELATING TO EAST AFRICA MAY VERY WELL REVOLVE ABOUT THE U.S. POSITION ON KENYAN/UGANDAN CONFRONTATION, PRESENCE OF U.S. PATROL PLANE AND CORVETTE, ARMS SUPPLY TO KENYA, ETC. THE REAL PUZZLER IS WHAT ARE THE BILATERAL U.S.-NIGERIAN ISSUES OR RELATIONS HE WISHES TO DISCUSS. WE HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATING QUITE A NUMBER OF SUCH, BUT THEY ARE ALL PROBLEMS WE HAVE WITH NIGERIA, NOT VICE VERSA: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, PROUTY CASE, GUTHRIE CASE, PETROLEUM COMPANY PROFITS SQUEEZE, DELAYS ON NIGERIAN VISAS FOR AMERICAN SCHOOL TEACHERS, ETC. WE HOPE SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE SOME OF THESE MATTERS, BUT WHAT GARBA HIMSELF HAS IN MIND IS HARD TO DIVINE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. AT ALL EVENTS IT IS CLEAR THAT GARBA, POSSIBLY ACTING UNDER ORDERS FROM SMC, URGENTLY WISHES TALK WITH SECRETARY ON MATTERS OF SOME MOMENT TO HIM. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY RECEIVE HIM IF AT ALL POSSIBLE AND THAT WE BE INFORMED OF TIME AND PLACE OF JULY 30 MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN PASS IT TO GARBA WITHOUT DELAY. HE IS CLEARLY UNDER PRESSURE AND IN A TOUCHY MOOD; A SPEEDY RESPONSE WOULD AT LEAST HELP GET THE

MEETING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PLANNING MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LAGOS08506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760284-0836
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760729/aaaaayup.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 181979
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GARBA REQUEST FOR MEETING JULY WITH SECRETARY
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, NI, US, KE, UG, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (GARBA, JOSEPH N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006